



The Fly-By

A Quarterly Publication of the
Southwest Region
April, 2015



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The Fly-By is published quarterly on the first month of each quarter. Deadline for submissions are:

1Q – 20 December

2Q – 20 March

3Q – 20 June

4Q – 20 September

Text may be submitted in the body of an e-mail (preferred) or as a document attached to an e-mail (a text file or, if generated in a word processor, saved in .RTF format).

Images must be in JPG format, un-retouched, un-cropped, and at least 1200 by 900 pixels.

Credits: In all cases, please give full grade, name and unit of assignment of

1. The article's author,
2. Photographer, and
3. Any person mentioned in the article.

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Send submissions to the Editor at:

awoodgate@austin.rr.com

Message size limit: 20 MB

What I Am Thinking About This Quarter:

“Choose the difficult right over the easy wrong”

Strong stuff those few words. They are one of the six leadership lessons we all should adhere to –

- Tell the truth,
- Do your best no matter how trivial the task,
- Look out for the group before you look out for yourself,
- Don't whine or make excuses,
- Judge others by their actions not their race, and
- Choose the difficult right over the easy wrong.

Of those lessons choosing the difficult right is the most difficult because it is so easy not to do. One has to make a very concerted effort to choose correctly in that situation. Let me offer an example.

In 1940, Cornell University's top-ranked football team, victors in 19 straight games, defeats Dartmouth College 7-3 on a last-second touchdown. The winning streak is saved. Or is it? Upon returning to Ithaca and developing game film, Big Red coaches discover that the touchdown occurred when the team was mistakenly awarded a fifth down. Cornell promptly sends a telegram offering to forfeit the game. Final score: Dartmouth 3, Cornell 0. It is the only time a football game has ever been decided off the field.

It would have been easy for Cornell to have ignored the film, easy for the coaches to have said, “The ruling on the field stands,” easy to have said, “Let Dartmouth file a complaint – if it doesn't so what?”

It would have been easy to say, “We have a winning season what's one more game?” Easy to forget the whole matter, the season was over. And yet Cornell

chose the difficult right over the easy wrong. A winning, no-loss season was theirs for the taking as long as they took the easy path.

In my imagination I see the Cornell coaches struggling over what to do; having heated discussions among themselves about what path to take, debating and questioning each other; feeling the pressure to not give up the winning streak, until one says, "The right thing to do is telegraph Dartmouth and tell them about the incorrectly awarded fifth down – that they won the game." It must have been extremely difficult for that one coach to choose the difficult right over the easy wrong.

Will we all have the leadership to choose the difficult right over the easy wrong, even in situations that are not as emotionally charged as losing a winning season? Think about it, and be prepared. We won't be aware that the time has come until it arrives.

Frank A. Buethe,
Colonel, CAP 🇺🇸

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Safety is Priority One

Please read the latest issue of The Safety Beacon for timely, seasonal advice at <http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/safety/>

Have you taken the **Operational Risk Management** Basic, Intermediate and Advanced online courses? Please visit: http://www.capmembers.com/safety/safety_education/

- Safety must be on every CAP member's mind, at all times.
- Before engaging in any CAP activity, a safety briefing must be conducted.
- Don't miss the Safety Specialty Track training posted at <http://www.capmembers.com/safety/safety-newsletters-2248/>
- ***Safety is our Number One Priority.***

How to Submit News Items for this Newsletter

- ***Which Articles Are Best?***

Ideally, articles should deal with a wing-wide event, preferably conducted in conjunction or coordinated with another wing (or better yet across regions).

Individual articles dealing with a subject that is of interest to a broad audience qualify as well.

Articles bylined by cadets, especially when the subject is of interest to a broad audience, are also welcome.

- ***Do I Submit Photos?***

Articles with no photos may not be selected for publication. Do not embed images in a Word document. Instead, send in the original, un-retouched, full-size digital photos as attachments.

- ***If You Have Article Ideas or Suggestions***

If you have an article in mind but are not sure whether it would be acceptable, you need some guidance in writing it, or you would like to comment on the material published here, please feel free to contact the editor: awoodgate@austin.rr.com. 🇺🇸



Top: The Congressional Gold Medal, awarded to Civil Air Patrol members who volunteered for service in defense of American soil during the period 1941-1945.

Below: Retired WWII CAP volunteer Manford B. “Manny” Redifer at the presentation ceremony. (Photos: 1st Lt. Brad Kidder, CAP)

Arkansas Wing Coordinates Presentation of Congressional Gold Medal

by 1st Lt. Brad Kidder, CAP, Arkansas Wing

FT. SMITH, Ark. – On Feb. 19, 2015, U.S. Rep. Steve Womack presented the Congressional Gold Medal to 1st Sgt. Manford B. “Manny” Redifer (U. S. Army, Ret.) for his service on the Civil Air Patrol during World War II. The special ceremony took place at Congressman Womack’s office on Sixth Street.

Ft. Smith Mayor Sandy Sanders – a long-time friend of Redifer’s – spoke eloquently during the ceremony. Arkansas Wing Commander Col. Harrell E. Clendenin (CAP) was also present. Congressman Womack is a retired Army colonel with over 30 years of service in the Arkansas National Guard.

Redifer was born on Aug. 25, 1925, the third of six children, to Burleigh and Alive Redifer of Plymouth, Ind. A trumpet player in his high school band who was earning \$14.50 per week cleaning floors in a South Bend, Ind. tea room, in 1942 Redifer followed his sister Lorraine to join the South Bend CAP squadron. He hoped that Civil Air Patrol would lead to flying for the Army Air Corps, where his brother Burleigh, Jr., was already a pilot.





his dog, his father was inside listening to the Chicago Bears football game on the radio, when news of the attack on Pearl Harbor was announced. Within three months, CAP members were using their own planes to fly anti-submarine missions off the east and gulf coasts, where German U-boats were sinking American ships that carried Allied supplies. At this point, the likes of Manford and Lorraine Redifer stepped up, driven by patriotism and willingness, in volunteer service with the Civil Air Patrol.

The South Bend CAP squadron flew a small fleet of Piper Cubs, Aeronca Champs, and Culver Darts from nearby Mishawaka Airport. The 30-40 members met monthly, accomplishing their tasked aviation missions, and supporting readiness for the developing war through collection of rubber, steel, and aluminum.

Redifer was drafted on Oct. 5, 1943. During his Army career, he worked on the 40mm Bofors gun, was an amphibious “Duck” driver, and a company bugler. While serving in Antwerp, Belgium, he suffered shrapnel wounds and frostbite after a German V1 rocket attack. By the age of 20, he would have served in 10 countries and earned the right to wear the Philippine Liberation and Unit Citation awards. Throughout the war he carried a picture of his high school sweetheart, Marian, to whom he returned and married, and with whom he raised three sons. Redifer retired from the Army Reserve in 1982 at the grade of Master Sergeant E-8.

Above: (L-R) CAP Col. Harrell Clendenin, Manny Redifer and Congressman Womack.

Right: Manny Redifer, CAP Col. Harrell Clendenin (rear) and Ft. Smith Mayor Sandy Sanders.

Redifer reflects, “I worked, I served, I married, I bought a farm. I raised my boys. I have 7 dogs and 2 cats. I’ve had a good life. And I am happy.”

When their mission ended, CAP’s coastal patrols had flown 86,685 sorties from 21 coastal bases, spotted 173 U-boats and attacked 57, escorted more than 5,600 convoys and reported 17 floating mines, 36 bodies, 91 ships in distress, and 363 survivors in the water. By the conclusion of World War II, CAP members had received 824 Air Medals and lost 74 aircraft with 65 members killed, 26 of whom died flying coastal patrols.

Manford Redifer exemplifies all things worthy of the Congressional Gold Medal bestowed upon CAP members who served during World War II. Today, Civil Air Patrol gratefully recognizes his service in World War II, and thanks him for his selfless service. 🇺🇸



New Mexico's World War II CAP Members Honored

by Maj. Dave Finley, CAP, New Mexico Wing

SANTA FE, N.M. – On Feb. 25, 2015, New Mexico's World War II Civil Air Patrol members were honored in a ceremony at the State Capitol. The families of three deceased New Mexico CAP members received bronze replicas of the Congressional Gold Medal, awarded in recognition of their CAP service during World War II. A CAP cadet color guard from the Los Alamos Composite Squadron presented the colors for the ceremony.

Brig. Gen. Juan Griego, Deputy Adjutant General of the New Mexico National Guard, and CAP's New Mexico Wing Commander, Col. Mark Smith, presented the replica medals to the families of late CAP members Robert S. Chamberlin, John F. Davis, and James Taylor. The honor recognizes the founding CAP members' role in protecting the American homeland and carrying out numerous wartime missions. The gold medal was presented to CAP in a Washington, D.C. ceremony on Dec. 10, 2014.

Robert Chamberlin was a CAP aircraft mechanic in Roswell and Las Cruces, N.M., and also served CAP on the East Coast supporting antisubmarine missions. John Davis, a private pilot, served as a CAP courier during the war. James Taylor, also a private pilot, flew for CAP at Ames, Iowa, after having been told that he was a year too old to join the Army Air Forces.

The New Mexico ceremony was part of the State Legislature's Military and Veterans Day. The keynote speaker was Lieutenant Governor John Sanchez. Retired Army Brig. Gen. Jack Fox, Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services, paid special recognition to an assemblage of World War II veterans of all services, who also received tributes from both houses of the Legislature.

"It was a great pleasure to show our appreciation to the families of some of the founders of our New Mexico Wing," Smith said, and added, "It also was gratifying to see that some of those family members are carrying on the tradition of CAP service."

Serving as unpaid volunteers during World War II, CAP members flew over the Atlantic and Gulf coasts to protect against German submarine attacks, patrolled the borders, towed targets for military trainees, watched for forest fires, conducted search and rescue missions, provided disaster relief and emergency transport of people and parts, and conducted orientation flights for future pilots. 🇺🇸

Below: (L-R) New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Mark Smith presents to Mr. Bill Davis, son of WWII CAP veteran John Davis the replica of the Congressional Gold Medal; Mr. Davis' wife, Sandi; grandsons Cadet Tech Sgts. Zachary Allen and Caleb Allen, of the Roswell Composite Squadron; Stephanie Davis Allen, daughter of Bill and Sandi; and Brig. Gen. Juan Griego, Deputy Adjutant General of the New Mexico National Guard. (Photo: Maj. Dave Finley, CAP)





Top: Civil Air Patrol Lt. Col. Steve Hudson, who has been selected as the next Texas Wing Commander.

Civil Air Patrol Names Hudson as Next Texas Wing Commander

by Capt. Morgan Montalvo, CAP, Texas Wing

NACOGDOCHES, Texas – Civil Air Patrol has named Lt. Col. Steve Hudson of Sulphur Springs as its next Texas Wing commander.

Hudson will formally succeed Col. Brooks Cima at a change-of-command ceremony during the upcoming Texas Wing Conference in April in Ft. Worth. Since 2013, he has served as one of two Texas Wing's vice commanders.

"I've been very fortunate to follow the leaders of Texas Wing," Hudson says, naming, in addition to Cima, Col. Joe Smith and Frank Eldridge, the Wing's most recent commanders. "I've been very fortunate to work side-by-side with Col. Cima, and she's been a great commander in

keeping me involved in the decision-making process and making sure that I'm aware of all processes and incidents that are going on in the Wing.

"She has been a great mentor for me," he says.

Prior to his appointment to the Texas Wing Staff, Hudson served as commander of Group II, which covers much of the state's northeast area. He is a CAP-rated mission pilot, incident commander and ground team leader, and has earned numerous advanced ratings in administrative and operational areas with responsibility for both senior member and cadet programs.

Hudson says he will continue to emphasize CAP's emergency services roles, and seek additional opportunities for local-response missions, thanks to a fund set aside by the Texas Legislature during Cima's tenure and administered through the Department of Public Safety and the Texas Department of Emergency Management.

"The state funding is already set aside should a county sheriff, or a fire marshal, or the Texas Forest Service need CAP services. It makes it much easier for them to get Civil Air Patrol involved in those emergency missions," to include missing person searches and similar hometown-oriented public service. Currently, the majority of CAP's missions are missing aircraft searches assigned by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

Federal homeland security and state-level weather-related missions are two other areas Hudson sees as fertile ground for increased CAP participation.

"We've done a lot of those in the past few years," he says, "but right now it's been about four or five years since we've had a hurricane hit the Gulf Coast, and we need to stay prepared for disaster relief."

In recent years, CAP's Texas Wing also has flown fire watch and wild-land firefighter shuttle missions for both the U.S. and Texas forest services. In 2013, approximately 60 Texas Wing members traveled north to assist with the aftermath of a tornado in Moore, Okla. that left 24 people dead.

"Texas Wing is in excellent condition," Hudson says, complimenting Cima's four-year tenure as commander and individual members' commitment to CAP's core missions: comprehensive emergency services; aerospace education; and cadet programs. Currently, CAP's Texas Wing numbers more than 3,200 adult senior member and mostly teenage cadet volunteers trained in any of dozens of public service specialties.

"Steve is going to do a great job," says Cima of her successor. "He's got the right capabilities, he's got the right competencies, he's got the right personality, and he'll be great for the Wing."

Hudson's emergency services and supervisory experience also includes Wing alerting officer, and commandant for the Mission Aircrew School at the Lone Star Emergency Services Academy hosted annually by Texas Wing. He has worked closely in disaster relief and counter-drug operations with both federal agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Civil Air Patrol named Hudson 2013 Emergency Services Officer of the Year for both Texas Wing and its six-state Southwest Region. His upcoming appointment will include a promotion to colonel during the April change-of-command ceremony. 

Right: Outgoing Texas Wing Commander CAP Colonel Brooks Cima.





Top: (L-R) Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford presents scholarship winner Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Jacob Bass with the Space Camp Commander's backpack containing his "marching orders" for Aviation Challenge.

First Gertrude Lorio Beauford Memorial Scholarship Awarded at Louisiana Wing Conference

by Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford, CAP, Louisiana Wing

PINEVILLE, La. – The first Gertrude Lorio Beauford Memorial Scholarship to Space Camp was awarded at the Louisiana Wing Conference to Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Joshua Bass of the Barksdale Composite Squadron in Shreveport, La. Cadet Bass opted for the Aviation Challenge III program as his career plan is to become a military aviator, preferably a fighter pilot. Cadet Bass promoted 5 times this year and has distinguished himself through his leadership, emergency services, encampment, and color guard activities. He won the Air Force Sergeants Association Cadet of the Year Award for Barksdale Composite Squadron. He has been on the honor roll since kindergarten and has been named student of the month 3 times.

The scholarship to Space Camp or Aviation Challenge is named after Gertie Lorio Beauford (right), longtime resident of Jefferson Parish, La., and longtime community supporter of such entities as the Jefferson Parish Lions Club, The Lions Children's Camp, the East Jefferson Hospital Community Advisory Council, and Children's Hospital. 🇺🇸





Top: CAP Pilot Bob Wolin prepares teachers Jennifer Alvarez and Jeanine Roseberry for their flight. (Photos: Capt. Audrey Morrow, CAP)

In Texas, Educators Soar Into the Future

by Capt. Audrey Morrow, CAP, Texas Wing

HOUSTON – On Feb. 5-7, 2015, at Ellington Field, the three-day Space Exploration Educators' 21st Annual Conference (SEEC) was held for educators ranging from grades K-12. Participating teachers came not only from the Houston area but also from different parts of the country.

The program (first started in 1994 through the efforts of Susan Mallett of Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters) is funded by Civil Air Patrol. The program's goal is to instill in teachers a love of aviation and space exploration. Their resulting enthusiasm is intended to awaken their students' young minds, creating a desire to explore and learn more about the space program and aviation.

With 27 years' experience as an educator, Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters Aerospace Education Director Debbie Dahl arranged and accompanied teachers through the various events. She has enjoyed doing this for the past eight years. She said, "I love hearing their comments and sharing in their excitement. Participating in this conference is my favorite activity."



Above: Group of educators pose in front of MQ-1B, flanked by Debbie Dahl and Ginny Smith both CAP NHQ.

Each group had classroom programs led by such professionals as retired USAF Col. and former NASA Astronaut Jerry L. Ross. Some of the topics included, "Connecting classroom technology to the real world," and "Presenting the International Space Station to kindergarten through grade 12." All participants received an in-depth tour of the NASA facility. They met and enjoyed lunch with astronauts.

The project officer, Texas Wing Vice-Commander Lt. Col. Stephen Hudson, and Texas Wing External Aerospace Education Officer for Teachers' Flight Program Maj. Stuart Hagedorn coordinated the events at Ellington Field. Group IV Flight Operations Officer and former T-38 pilot Maj. Tony Martin served as air operations branch director and shuttled groups from NASA to Ellington Field, returning them to their hotels at the end of the day.

Texas Wing Director of Aerospace Education Lt. Col. Levent Vural delivered the opening remarks and led discussions on topics pertaining to Civil Air Patrol's involvement in this conference. He explained the many opportunities available to CAP members and how they contribute to the community at large. Forty-four teachers signed on as new Civil Air Patrol members. Lt. Col. Vural accompanied each group through their tours.

Educators were led to a hangar housing two T-38 Talon supersonic jets. Bill Ehrenstrom, a maintenance technician, explained the aircraft's role in the Air National Guard. Teacher Romoma Stueckrad from Denver had some flying experience and was particularly interested in viewing the T-38 cockpit with Bill Ehrenstrom. She is eager to resume flying.

Scott Reagan, a flight instructor, explained why this plane is used in training astronauts. He flew a T-38 on a photo surveillance flight when the space shuttle Endeavor made its final flight to its new home in New York.



Left: Debbie Dahl CAP NHQ, Texas Wing Director of Aerospace Education Lt. Col. Levent Vural and Ginny Smith, CAP NHQ.

Below: Julia Torrez of El Paso, Texas, enjoys the MQ-1B flight simulator.

USAF Col. Eric Boe, a Civil Air Patrol member, is a graduate of the U. S. Air Force Academy, an astronaut and a T-38 flight instructor. Col. Boe has had a distinguished career in space exploration and military aviation. During the conference he addressed two groups of educators, sharing with them his love of flying, along with his joys

and experiences piloting the STS-126 Endeavor and STS-133 Discovery space shuttles.

Master Sgts. Sean Cowher and Clayton Lemons took the group into the hangar housing the Predator MQ-1B UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) or RPA (remotely piloted aircraft). Cowher explained, "We do not use the term drone. It has a menacing and threatening sound to it." He explained that this model, used for photographic reconnaissance, transmits all data and stores nothing in its memory, so that the mission would not be compromised should it be captured.

After viewing the MQ-1B, the group was led to three remote control simulators and took turns directing a UAV in flight. Teacher Julia Torrez of El Paso, Texas, thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Texas Wing Commander Col. Brooks Cima opened the last session on Saturday morning. She explained the many opportunities available in Civil Air Patrol, and the satisfaction of being part of an organization dedicated to homeland security and community service.

The highlight of the educators' tour of Ellington Field was a flight in a Civil Air Patrol aircraft. Flights were conducted on Friday and Saturday. Four aircraft were available, two Gippsland GA-8s, a Cessna 172 and a Cessna 182. Pilots took each flight crew to their assigned aircraft to show them how the movements of the ailerons, elevator and rudder affected flight.

Jeanine Roseberry of Sheboygan, Wis. teaches a kindergarten class and is the Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) instructor for her school. Her flight was in a GA-8. "It was so much fun. It was just a wonderful experience," she exclaimed on her return.

Jennifer Alvarez, who lives in the Houston area, was the star of the day, as she finally overcame a fear of flying that bordered on hysteria. Her husband was in Galveston Bay fishing at the time of her flight. Her GA-8 pilot, Maj. Stuart Hagedorn, dispelled her misgivings, and even let her take the controls for a short time. She was ecstatic, and was able to spot her husband's fishing boat in the bay. Maj. Hagedorn presented her with a Texas Wing Challenge coin.

To all accounts, Civil Air Patrol's role in this event inspired teachers to return to their classrooms filled with enthusiasm and anxious to relate accounts of their experiences with the space program and the feeling of flight. 🇺🇸



Arizona Wing's AE Team and Deer Valley Composite Squadron Color Guard at Aviation Day

by Lt. Col. A. Peter Feltz, CAP, Arizona Wing

PHOENIX, Ariz. – On Feb. 26, 2015, a delegation composed of Arizona Wing's Aerospace Education officers and the Deer Valley Composite Squadron's color guard attended the ceremonies celebrating Aviation Day at the Capital, an event that emphasizes the importance of the aviation industry to the State of Arizona.



A declaration from the governor was read, proclaiming this sunny day "Aviation Day" in the State of Arizona. A large number of aviation industry representatives set up their displays and showed how they mattered to the state economy. The CAP cadets presented the colors to start the meeting.



Top: CAP members at the CAP table.
(All photos: Lt. Col. A. Peter Feltz)
Left: Overview of the displays.
Bottom: Lunch.

Arizona's legislators took a break from a heavy day in their sessions to assemble in the area and give their constituents an opportunity to discuss their needs in the aviation industry. A lunch was served during these sessions.

Arizona Wing members had many visitors at the

CAP booth. This gave them a chance to advertise the Civil Air Patrol and all CAP's missions. As usual, many of the visitors did not know about Civil Air Patrol, once again showing how important it is to familiarize the public and legislators with Civil Air Patrol and CAP's missions. 🇺🇸





Top: The hot-air balloon Phoenix, operated by CAP's New Mexico Wing, has a donated envelope taken from the balloon New Mexico Sunrise 2. The latter was involved in an October, 2013 accident in which balloonist Daniel Lovato was severely injured. Lovato made his return to balloon flight on Feb. 15, 2015, in the Phoenix, courtesy of CAP. (Photos: 1st Lt. Ryan M. Stark, CAP)

Man Injured in Balloon Accident Flies Again in CAP Balloon

by 1st Lt. Ryan M. Stark, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – On Feb. 15, 2015, balloonist Daniel Lovato – who lost his arm on Oct. 9, 2013 when a hot-air balloon in which he was flying struck power lines – returned to the air

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using the same envelope as the one in which his accident had occurred, a balloon now operated by the New Mexico Wing of Civil Air Patrol.

Lovato and balloon pilot Mark Kilgore had been flying a balloon dubbed New Mexico Sunrise 2 during the 2013 Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta. When the balloon accidentally made contact with power lines in Rio Rancho, Lovato's arm came into contact with the wire, the current went through his body knocking him unconscious, and the balloon's gondola caught fire.

Three weeks later he woke up in the hospital and was told that he had lost his left arm. His hospital stay lasted two months, and Lovato endured 18 surgeries related to the accident.

The Feb. 15 flight – Lovato's first after the accident – took off from Albuquerque's Balloon Fiesta Park. The pilot was CAP Capt. Albert L. Lowenstein, with Lovato as his only passenger.

While the gondola of New Mexico Sunrise 2 was destroyed in the 2013 accident, the envelope was later donated to Civil Air Patrol. The New Mexico Wing started a new ballooning program for its members in 2014. With a new gondola, the balloon is now named Phoenix, in tribute to its symbolic rise from the ashes following the accident.

While CAP aircraft usually transport only CAP members for training or missions, New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Mark Smith – who has known Lovato for years – made a special request and obtained permission from CAP's national headquarters to return Lovato to the air in the balloon. 🇺🇸

Below: On Feb. 15, 2015, at Balloon Fiesta Park, Albuquerque, N.M., balloonist Daniel Lovato is helped into the gondola of the Phoenix, a hot-air balloon operated by the New Mexico Wing of Civil Air Patrol,





Top: A CAP aircrew coordinates with the ground team. (Photos: 1st Lt. Joshua B. Bass, CAP)

Below: A ground team is in the process of locating an Emergency Locator Beacon.

Louisiana Wing Squadron Conducts Cold Weather Survival Course

by 1st Lt. Joshua B. Bass, CAP, Louisiana Wing

BELLEVIEW, La. – During Jan. 16-18, 2015, the Barksdale Composite Squadron, Louisiana Wing, Civil Air Patrol, held its 2nd Annual Cold Weather Survival Course and Bivouac. Previously held on the same weekend in January of 2014, the event had been so well received that members started planning this year's on the following week.





This exercise focuses members on primitive camping at ambient temperatures of under 50 deg. Fahrenheit. Members can then experience what this feels like prior to a multiple-day deployment in cold temperatures. However, this year's temperatures were significantly warmer than in 2014, but still cool enough to get the point across.

Senior members 1st Lt. Joshua Bass, 1st Lt. Matthew Mason, and FO Aaron Pomraning supervised Cadet Maj. Matthew Pourteau, Cadet Capt. Andrew Koepnick, Cadet Sr. Master Sgt. Jacob Bass, Cadet Amn. Conner Gay, Cadet Airman Basic Arianne Graves, Cadet Staff Sgt. Blake Robinson, Cadet Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Schwarz and Cadet Master Sgt. Austin Stone as they trained as a team on Emergency Services tasks required for Ground Team Member (GTM) levels 3, 2 and 1.

Arriving at 1800 at the primitive camping area of the Bayou Bodcau Recreation Area in Belleview, darkness had already set in. The evening was devoted to the safety briefing for the operation, camp set-up, and the class instruction on cold weather injury treatment and prevention. Afterwards, participants settled in for a night of cold camping.

On Saturday, the Area One Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) was rescheduled to the same weekend, and this meant that air support would be available for the squadron's exercise. Since Saturday tasks would focus on evaluating members for GTM tasks, this worked out well. Mission Base, at the Shreveport Downtown Airport, tasked the Belleview group on two sorties during which trainees were able to train on ground-to-air signaling, air-to-ground signaling, communications-out simulation, and searching for and Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) with aircrew support.

Between tasking from mission base, the Belleview members trained and evaluated other tasks such as: search lines (photo above), whistles, clues, maps, compass, phone alerts, and ELT location. Cadets got Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) for lunch. When evening fell, the group enjoyed some fellowship, played some catch with the football, and grilled burgers before lights out.

The second night in the field always feels colder, even though this time the actual temperature was a few degrees higher. After breakfast on Sunday, the group continued to work on tasks before breaking camp and returning to the squadron.

Every member in attendance gained new skills or refined those already acquired. Three cadets completed all tasks required for awarding of the Emergency Services Patch and Basic Ground Team Badge. Two cadets qualified at the GTM2 level and began training tasks for GTM1 and Ground Team Leader.

After this experience, one thing became clear: if someone's ELT goes off in Northern Louisiana, there are people qualified to find it. Unit trainees did very well and applied themselves to the task. Also, the choice was unanimous: there will be a 2016 Annual Cold Weather Survival Course and Bivouac. 🇺🇸



on, April, 2015

Left: (L-R) Texas Rock gym Instructor, Cadet Sr. Amn. Simon Wilson, Cadet Master Sgt. Martin Marquez, (Photos: Cadet Master Sgt. Faith Marquez)

Below: Cadet Tech Sgt. Hannah Andrews belays for a climber.

Second Annual Texas Rock Gym Lock-In

by Cadet Master Sgt. Faith Marquez, CAP, Texas Wing

HOUSTON – During Jan. 31- Feb. 1, 2015, the Thunderbird Composite Squadron held its 2nd Annual Lock-in at the Texas Rock Gym, a favorite fundraiser for the squadron. Cadets

and friends arrived, armed with Nerf guns, candy and snacks; well prepared for the full night ahead.

The action started the moment the Rock Gym doors closed on Saturday night, and went on until early Sunday morning. Cadets and their friends waged Nerf war, ate pizza, and played dodge ball. Everyone was able to enjoy the challenge of the numerous rock walls, starting with the bouldering practice wall and moving on to the higher walls with smaller handholds.

Nearly seventy participants joined in the



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event, making it Thunderbird's second largest fundraiser. For starters, the Texas Rock gym staff gave everyone quick rock-climbing instructions, and they even certified those who wished to test successfully in belaying (ground assisting a climber in order to prevent accidental injury).

Left: Cadet Amn. 1st Class Abby Stewart rock climbs with belaying assist.

Below: Cadets and friends engage in Nerf battle.

First Lt Pamela Branum, who has been going to Texas Rock gym for nearly four years, commented on the night, "The Texas Rock Gym Lock-in is an extremely fun and unique event. We start off the participants climbing on the



"state of the art" rock walls, and present cool prizes to those who take part in the challenging rock climbing competition. Later in the night, when they get tired of climbing, we have epic Nerf gun battles, Dodge Ball tournaments, and lots of tag games. This night of fun really helps our cadets get to know each other better and build lasting friendships."

Thanks to the Texas Rock Gym's ongoing support, the Thunderbird Composite Squadron raised over a thousand dollars on this event. These funds will enable the squadron to pay for other unique activities that they offer every month. 🇺🇸



Louisiana Squadron Wins Awards at Wing Conference

by Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford, CAP, Louisiana Wing

PINEVILLE, La – On March 7, 2015, the Pontchartrain Composite Squadron won nine awards at the Louisiana Wing Conference held in Pineville, La. Southwest Region Commander Col. Frank A. Buethe presented the Southwest Region Maj. Gen. Jeanne Holm Aerospace Education Officer of the Year Award to Wing Director of External Aerospace Education Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford. She also earned a Civil Air Patrol Meritorious Service Award, won the Frank G. Brewer Memorial Aerospace Award for Lifetime Achievement, the Aerospace Education Officer of the Year Award, and the Public Affairs Officer of the Year Award.

First Lt. Mike Giroir was presented a Commander's Commendation Award for his aerospace education program. Mr Zachary Bolzan of Caddo Parish Schools was presented the Frank G. Brewer Memorial Aerospace Education Award, Individual Category, and the Wing Aerospace Education Teacher of the Year Award. Cadet Capt. Franchesca Giroir won the Wing Cadet of the Year Award for her excellence in Pontchartrain Composite Squadron and as Southwest Region Cadet Advisory Representative, Wing Cadet Advisory Council Chairperson, Drug Reduction Cadet Officer, and Safety Council Officer. Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Garrison Garcia earned the Master Sgt. James LaChute Cadet Non-commissioned Officer of the Year Award.

World War II Marine Col. Art Arceneaux delivered the keynote address and shared his experiences and insights as an aviator in the Pacific Theater during WWII. He earned the Marine Corps Distinguished Service Medal for his heroic actions during the Battle of Okinawa. His address was met with enthusiasm as he shared his love of country and fellow servicemen. 🇺🇸

Top: (L-R) Louisiana Wing Commander Col. "Doc" Barnard looks on as Southwest Region Commander Col. Frank A. Buethe presents the Gen. Jeanne Holm Aerospace Education Officer of the Year Award to Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford.

Right: (L-R) Col. Art Arceneaux, USMC (Ret) and Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford, CAP.



Southwest Region Cadet Advisory Council Chair is Promoted

by Lt. Col. Adam Such, CAP, Southwest Region

GLENDALE, Ariz. – On Dec. 23, 2014, having completed all requirements for the 14th Achievement Level, and thereby earning the grade of Cadet Major – Klara Olcott joined the ranks of senior level cadet officers that comprises all cadet majors, lieutenant colonels and colonels.

Senior level cadet leaders are expected to operate independently for longer periods of times, without much oversight, and with greater responsibilities of managing large-scale operations. In the CAP cadet hierarchy, they are typically assigned to duty as squadron cadet commanders, group cadet commanders, and cadet executive staff at wing/region headquarters.

Cadets in the grades of Cadet 2nd Lt. through Cadet Capt. lead and supervise cadets at the squadron and flight level, such as cadet staff officers and cadet commanders, and are mentored by senior cadets and unit senior members.

As the SWR CAC Chair, Cadet Olcott mentors the six Wing CAC cadet representatives within the Region (Ariz., Ark., La, N.M., Okla. and Texas Wings), to recommend solutions and identify opportunities to improve CAP's Cadet Program. Thriving on open lines of communication from the Wings, the SWR Council advises the SWR Commander and Deputy Chief of Staff, Cadet Programs, generating effective solutions for CAP's cadet program.

Cadet Maj. Olcott, as the SWR CAC Chair and SWR Representative, actively participates on CAP's National Cadet Advisory Council (NCAC). At this level, she works with the other Region Representatives to directly advise the National Commander and National Staff on the cadet program. While the CAC is not in any "chain of command" and operates as an advisory council, each cadet on the CAC is able to voice opinions, recommendations, and suggestions on how to improve CAP's cadet program. Any cadet's recommendations to the CAC can be taken directly to the NCAC, and then submitted to CAP's National Commander for his consideration.

After the promotion ceremony, Cadet Olcott said, "The Southwest Region CAC set out to establish strong connections across all echelons in the CAC link and we have made great progress. One of our proposals regarding Senior Member professional development credit for milestone cadet promotions was recently approved at the highest level. Three more proposals are underway that will also have nationwide significance. Our efforts were made possible by the active feedback from every CAC council down to the unit level, and their continued feedback and contributions are highly encouraged and requested."

CAP Cadets can best serve the CAC by actively working with the unit's leadership to ensure that the unit is properly represented at Wing and Region CAC meetings. The CAC communication stream works both up and down the hierarchy. Ideas, suggestions, and requests for help often

start at the NCAC level, flow through the SWR CAC, on to the wing and squadron CAC representatives, then directly to individual cadets. But the reverse is also true, as each cadet's ideas and concerns can reach the National Commander through the CAC. 🇺🇸

Right: Southwest Region Deputy Chief of Staff, Cadet Programs Lt. Col. Adam Such places the new grade on Cadet Maj. Klara Olcott, a member of Squadron 388, Arizona Wing.





Top: Maj. Lloyd J. Voights accepts command of Albuquerque Heights Composite Squadron from Wing Commander Col. Mark Smith. (All Photos: Capt. Nicki L. Voights, CAP)

Promotions and Awards Round Out Change of Command Ceremony

by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Promotions and awards played a prominent role in the recent change of command ceremony at Albuquerque Heights “Spirit” Composite Squadron on March 5, 2015, when the reins of command passed from Maj. Michael E. Eckert to Maj. Lloyd J. Voights.

Cadet James G. Johnson was promoted to cadet master sergeant, and the squadron’s aerospace education officer, Mary A. Fox, was promoted to captain. Johnson has been a member of CAP and the squadron since September 2013; Fox, since March 2011.

Cadet 2nd Lts. Bailey E. Little and Ella C. Freimanis received their Gen. Billy Mitchell Awards from New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mark E. Smith, who presided over the change of command ceremony. Both cadets have received appointments to federal service academies.

Outgoing commander Maj. Michael E. Eckert received Civil Air Patrol’s Exceptional Service Award for his outstanding service as squadron commander.



Above: Outgoing commander Maj. Michael E. Eckert (right) receives Civil Air Patrol's Exceptional Service Award from Col. Smith.

Finally, the moment arrived that has been passed down from one commander to the next since the beginnings of organized military units. The squadron's color bearer, Cadet Master Sgt. Mark Chappell, presented the squadron flag to Maj. Eckert, who in turn passed it to Col. Smith, signifying Eckert's relinquishing of command. Smith then presented the flag to Maj. Voights, who took it signifying Voights' acceptance of command. Voights then returned the flag to Chappell, who returned to his post with the color guard.

The new commander emphasized that although Maj. Eckert is no longer in command, he will continue to contribute to the squadron in many ways. "This is not like the military, where when there's a change of command, the old commander leaves," Voights said. "Maj. Eckert will still be here, and we look forward to his support."

Voights' immediate plans for Eckert are to appoint him as squadron deputy commander, the position Voights held while under Eckert's command.

Taking a leaf from National Commander Maj. Gen. Joseph Vazquez, who emphasized that CAP units should not forget to have fun, Voights said that he wanted to re-introduce the element of fun into the squadron. "I want us to be the squadron that not only does things right, but also has fun in the process," he said. 🇺🇸

Right: New Mexico Wing commander Col. Mark E. Smith (center) presents the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award to Cadet 2nd Lts. Bailey E. Little (left), and Ella C. Freimanis.





Top: FTX participants gather around the campfire for stories and Smores. (Photo: Capt. Karl Falken, CAP)

Below: Group IV Commander Maj. Ric Walters observes 1st Lt. LoDolce teaching basic firestarting skills. (All other photos: 1st Lt. Wilmer Sosa, CAP)

Texas Squadron Holds Survival Exercise Where Gen. Custer Once Camped

by 1st Lt. Wilmer Sosa, CAP, Texas Wing

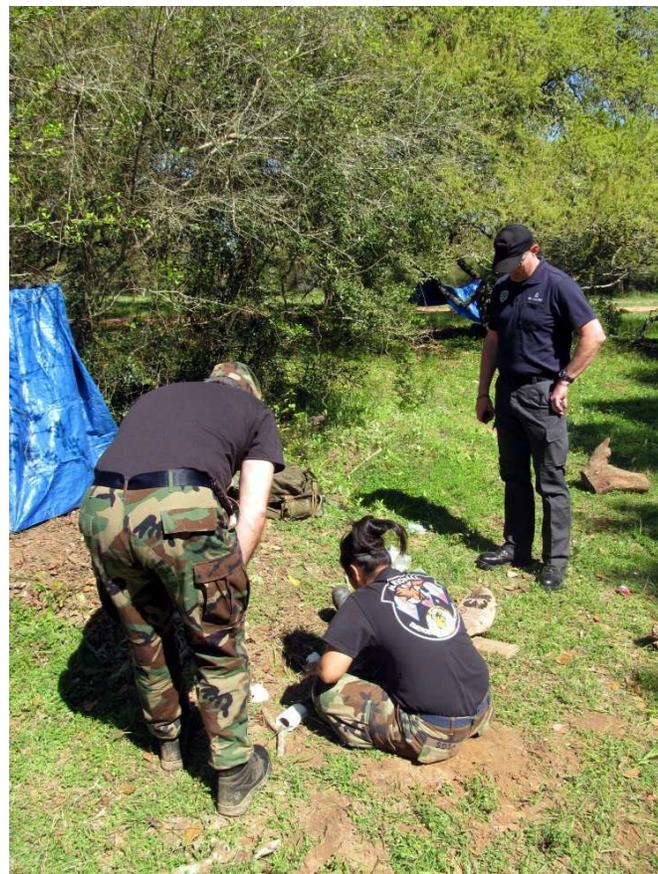
HEMPSTEAD, Texas – During March 27-28, 2015, members of the Thunderbird Composite Squadron held a Survival Field Training Exercise (FTX) on the grounds of the ante-bellum Liendo Plantation by kind permission of its owner, Mr. Will Detering. Now a historic site where prize-winning cattle are bred, this is also where Gen. George A. Custer once camped.

The purpose of the FTX was survival training. The participants played a scenario where they were the sole survivors of a plane crash, had no outside help, and counted on minimal resources; the plane came to rest upside down. The emergency locator transmitter (ELT) may not be functioning, they have just exited the ruined aircraft, and miraculously their injuries are minimal. Now they need to decide, "What do we do next?"

On a weekend, when many teenagers are sleeping after a long night of amusements, more than a dozen cadets from the Thunderbird Composite Squadron gathered at sunrise for their first day of playing sole-survivor at the Liendo Plantation.

The site was chosen because it is a heavily wooded area that could simulate the site of an aircraft accident and would also provide an excellent learning area for the cadets. The training exercise began with all cadets riding in the Civil Air Patrol van to the simulated crash site (which would have been a long hike from base camp).

From the simulated crash site, the "survivors" were directed to locate the "airfield" where their flight was originally attempting to land. The "forced march" or "hump", started with walking at a fast pace over rough terrain with a





backpack carrying the minimum essentials to survive for two days.

The march was designed to test the cadets' stamina to the limit. After the march, they faced a series of challenges such as a person stranded in a wilderness area might encounter, including having to build a shelter and fire from basic materials. Though they were fatigued from scouting the area for materials, the cadets pushed on. In the process, they learned the importance of trusting their equipment and developing confidence.

That night they slept under the stars in improvised shelters with no sleeping bags. In the morning, they set up their own snares or traps to simulate hunting. Since actual hunting was not an option, successful snare builders were rewarded with portions of store-bought stew meat labeled "deer", "rabbit", "possum" and "snake." They cooked these over the fires they

built.

Group IV Commander Maj. Ric Walters visited by mid-morning. "The survival FTX is a great idea," he said. "Getting everybody accustomed to sleeping in the field is a good experience and builds unity. This type of exercise stresses the development of leadership, individual skills and self-confidence. I encourage other squadrons with cadets to get involved with this sort of activity."

First Lt. Salvatore LoDolce is a graduate of several military survival schools. He explained that during a long-term survival situation (when one must live off the land), one of the biggest challenges is finding and procuring food and water. That means finding a way to hunt and trap. Figuring out where to set the traps was probably the most challenging part of the lesson. This is especially true for those who don't have a good grasp of animal behavior and lack tracking training. This type of skill is also useful to know for anyone who spends any significant amount of time in the wilderness.

"I feel like I've accomplished a lot of things I wouldn't ever attempt at home," said Cadet Benjamin Rahim Gbessay. "It was challenging, but I feel accomplished."

Basic attitudes such as self-awareness and self-experiences are crucial for achieving self-preservation. Making the experience memorable and enjoyable is also important. Many of the cadets said that they "had fun" and "learned a lot" from the exercise. The Survival FTX gives youth an opportunity to learn valuable survival, safety and leadership skills.

"It's not about how you start, it's about how you finish," said Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Eleidy Sosa. "We finished strong!"

At the end of the exercise, the participants critiqued the event. Based on their feedback, it was clear that the participants are now ready for the next level. Next time, the cadets will be given the tools and resources needed to adapt to and overcome situations which they might experience in a crash. This will go beyond mere survival and will require them to deal successfully with broader challenges. This FTX went beyond teaching mere camping skills and developed survival skills that can be useful in extreme situations that may be beyond controlled search and rescue operations.

Thunderbird Composite Squadron members accept challenges every day. Being prepared for all possibilities is critical to accomplishing foreseeable and unforeseeable missions. This weekend the participants learned that attitude is everything and persevering is among the most important factors in surviving. 🇺🇸

Top left: Cadets navigate through woods from crash site to base camp.

Right: Improvised small-game snare.



Louisiana Wing Squadron Conducts Orientation Flights

by 1st Lt. Joshua Bass, CAP,
Louisiana Wing

SHREVEPORT, La. – On Jan 31, 2015, the Barksdale Composite Squadron, in conjunction with the Shreveport Senior Squadron, held a successful day of cadet orientation flights. From cadet First Flights, to the final and 5th syllabus, pilots Capt. Brian Nicholas and Col. Thomas "Doc" Barnard flew cadets from sunrise to sunset. The day's activities were also supported by Capt. Michael Hackett and 1st Lt. Grady Saulters of the Shreveport Senior Squadron. They helped stage the flight, run mission base radio operations, and input data into the WIMRS mission database.



Eight cadets from the Barksdale Composite squadron reported on time at 6:45 a.m. at the Shreveport Downtown Airport. Pre-flights started at 7:00 a.m.

First Lt. Joshua Bass led Cadet Amn. Katlyn Hoffman, Cadet Amn. David Conner Gay and Cadet Staff Sgt. Reagan Ullman to their CAP First Orientation Flight. Cadet Sr. Master Sgt. Austin Stone, Cadet Tech. Sgt. Shane Drury, Cadet 2nd Lt. Jackson Jinks, Cadet Staff Sgt. Nathaniel Schwarz and Cadet Sr. Master Sgt. Jacob Bass rounded out the eight.

Before every flight, each pilot briefed the cadets in depth. After the first four cadets finished flying, the participants noticed that the spinner on the Cessna 172 had a crack in it, so the group had to rely on the G1000-equipped Cessna 182 to finish out the day's flights. The issue was resolved with no mishap. To allow for having red-lined an airplane, pilots and cadets agreed to stay later than planned, as everyone wanted the cadets to have a chance to fly.

Cadet Hoffman said, "I had been anxious about flying for two days, but that was awesome. When are we doing it again?" This was the first time that she had been in the air.

While cadets waited their turn or had finished their flight debriefings, they helped enter the WIMRS data, worked the VHF radios and tracked flights on the SPOT GPS system. Others worked on individual training tasks for which they needed credit, such as the proper way to fuel

an aircraft, aircraft ground-handling procedures, and flight-line marshalling.

When the flying came to an end, cadets helped clean both aircraft, tie down the Cessna 172 under the shadeport, and secure the Cessna 182 in the hangar. 🇺🇸



Top: Cadets Hoffman and Schwarz look on as 1st Lt. Grady Saulters checks the fuel level before taking the Cessna 182 from the hangar. (Photos: Lt. Col. Victor Santana and 1st Lt. Joshua Bass)

Left: Col. Thomas "Doc" Barnard (who is the Wing Commander), debriefs Cadets Gay and Ullman after they completed their sortie.



New Mexico Legislative Squadron Commander Takes Reins at House of Representatives

by Maj. Dave Finley, CAP, New Mexico Wing

SANTA FE, N.M. – The commander of New Mexico's Legislative Squadron, State Representative (and Civil Air Patrol Lt. Col.) Don Tripp has a new title – "Mister Speaker." Tripp was elected Speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives when the Legislature convened on Jan. 20, 2015. The Socorro lawmaker is the first Republican to lead that chamber in more than 60 years.

"We congratulate Rep. Tripp on his election to the Speaker's post, and are proud to have one of our members so honored," said New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Mark Smith.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Tripp said in speaking about the opportunity to take what many consider the second most

powerful position in state government. The opportunity came when the GOP got its first majority in New Mexico's House since the election of 1952, when Dwight Eisenhower was elected president.

Born in Pasadena, Calif., Tripp earned his B.A. from New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology (NM Tech) in Socorro in 1969. He has been the CEO of Tripp's Inc., a jewelry business, since 1979, and has been active in numerous community organizations. He was first elected to the New Mexico House in 1998, and has served continuously since then. In November, 2014, he won reelection with 71 percent of the vote.

A pilot and former aircraft owner, Tripp joined the state's Legislative Squadron in 2008 and became its commander on the following year. He has been a strong supporter of Civil Air Patrol, and has arranged for CAP color guards to present the colors in both the House and Senate chambers. He also has successfully recruited many fellow lawmakers for the Legislative Squadron, which boasted 74 members in the last session. Those members notably include Governor Susana Martinez, a CAP Lieutenant Colonel since 2013.

New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Mark Smith said, "We appreciate State Representative Tripp's efforts in the past on behalf of Civil Air Patrol, and look forward to working with him in his new role." 🇺🇸





Left: Dan Reilly explains cloud formations, their characteristics, and their potential for danger. (Photo: Capt. Audrey Morrow, CAP)

Texas Wing Members Learn All About Clouds

by Capt. Audrey Morrow,
CAP, Texas Wing

SUGAR LAND,
Texas – On March 25,
2015, at the Sugar Land
City Hall Annex, Dan
Reilly, warning
coordination
meteorologist for the

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), presented Skywarn to an attentive audience. This program is designed to educate the general public on how to look for signs of dangerous weather conditions in a variety of cloud formations, signs of flooding, and the intensity and size of hail.

Most people know only that some clouds are called nimbus or cumulus (if that). Their size, color and shape often signify oncoming damaging storms. “Some shapes conceal rotating currents that evolve into tornadoes,” said Reilly. He used a Power Point presentation to illustrate numerous types of clouds. There are wall clouds, anvil, inverted dome, and striated layers; each capable of creating a powerful tornado. Reilly illustrated the timing of a lightning strike and gave examples of how and where to take cover if caught in an adverse weather event.

The American Southwest is particularly prone to hurricanes, tornadoes, and hail. The main purpose of this program is to train and recruit spotters. Attentive spotters can play an active role in saving lives and property by reporting their observations promptly to the weather service. This knowledge is critical to Civil Air Patrol emergency services operations. Early preparations can be made for air and ground crews. Group IV Emergency Operations Officer Maj. Val Rose and Group IV Public Affairs Officer Louise Rose attended the presentation.

As a child, Dan Reilly was fascinated by meteorology and science, and this led to his current occupation. He has been with the NOAA/NWS for 22 years. “I’ve worked on a number of hurricanes and was in the impact area for Hurricanes Ike, Floyd and Isabel. In each case I was stranded at the weather forecast office due to flooding, downed trees, etc. I also was impacted by the 1991 Halloween Storm in New England, depicted in *The Perfect Storm* book and movie,” he said. Reilly is also an active member of the Houston/Galveston Office of Emergency Management Public Information Network.

NOAA’s roots date back to the formation of the U. S. Weather Bureau in 1807.

On September 8, 1900, Chief Meteorologist Issac Cline based in Galveston did not trust the barometric readings, nor did he wait for approval. He ran up and down the beach area warning as many people as he could of the impending disaster, thus saving several hundred, perhaps thousands of people. In the end, the Galveston hurricane of 1900 claimed from 6,000 to 12,000 lives. Single-handedly, Cline proved how important early warning is.

The Houston/Galveston NOAA office provides continual training of the public in Skywarn programs. For more information, visit <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/hgx/?n=skywarn> 

Arizona Wing Represents CAP at Buckeye Air Fair

by Cadet 2nd Lt. Nicholas Rossetti, CAP, Arizona Wing

BUCKEYE, Ariz. – On Feb. 21, 2015, Arizona Wing of Civil Air Patrol participated in the Buckeye Air Fair. This yearly event – held in the spring – combines an air show, a display of vintage and current aircraft, a car show, and a group of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) exhibitors. The Air Show takes place at the Buckeye Municipal Airport located on the western part of Buckeye Valley. Admission was free to all families, pilots and vendors.



The Arizona Wing's 388th Composite Squadron attended the Buckeye Air Fair to host a CAP information booth as well as to provide a CAP airplane on static display. On its flight from Glendale Municipal Airport, the pilot gave two cadets from the 388th Composite Squadron their Cadet Orientation Flights. The CAP plane was parked on Buckeye's ramp for all fair attendees to view.

Seventeen cadets from the 388th Composite Squadron and several senior members from the Arizona Wing attended the event. Cadets rotated through shifts at the CAP booth and plane, answering visitor questions and publicizing the CAP missions. Along with informing the public, the pilot and cadets worked with the local Boy Scout Troop 515 Buckeye to present the Aviation Merit Badge. Throughout the day, over 120 scouts from the greater Phoenix area visited the CAP display and plane in order to complete the requirements to earn their Merit Badge.

The Buckeye Air Fair was also associated with the Arizona SciTech Festival. A large portion of the Air Fair was comprised of STEM and SciTech partners who presented interactive displays related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics. CAP had a booth in the SciTech area, where Arizona Wing members were able to inform attendees on how the CAP Aerospace mission supports STEM education in schools and universities. Cadets worked with fair attendees and demonstrated different ways in which STEM is important to CAP. As families came by, they quickly realized how important STEM is in the modern world, and how Civil Air Patrol fits into this scheme of things. Some fair attendees were very interested in CAP and the opportunities offered to CAP cadets.

CAP cadets invited all fair attendees to the 388th Composite Squadron weekly Monday night cadet meetings. CAP cadets, by attending the fair and recruiting new cadets, furthered one of CAP's Missions: Cadet Programs. Some parents were also interested in joining CAP and discovering opportunities open to CAP senior members. The Arizona Wing senior members worked with parents and teachers by answering their questions about CAP.



After the event, Arizona Wing Director of Aerospace Education Lt. Col. A. Peter Feltz, said, "This was a great opportunity to share with fair attendees the Aerospace Education Mission of Civil Air Patrol. By participating in the Buckeye Air Fair, we had the opportunity to present our STEM Program and AEM Program to many educators who attended the Fair." 🇺🇸

Top: CAP plane on display. (Photo: Maj. Ken Mann, CAP)

Left: Boy scouts are eager to learn about CAP. (Photo: Lt. Col. Richard Frazier, CAP)



Left: Cadet 2nd Lt. Nicholas Martin receives the Mitchell Award from Col. Mark Smith at the squadron's awards dinner on Dec. 19, 2013. (All Photos: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP)

Below: New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Mark E. Smith (left) presents the Gen. Billy Mitchell Award to Cadet 2nd Lt. Joel Montoya at the Feb. 13, 2014 squadron meeting.

New Mexico Squadron Boasts Record Seven Officer Trainees

by Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, New Mexico Wing

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. –

For 2015, Albuquerque Heights "Spirit" Squadron will have a record seven cadets or former cadets enrolled in officer training, either through the service academies or ROTC – the most cadets the squadron has ever had admitted as military officer trainees.

Haley Barela, former squadron cadet commander, will graduate from the Air Force Academy this spring with the class of 2015. Nicholas Martin, another former Spirit cadet, was admitted to the Academy last year and will be finishing his fourth class year when Barela graduates in May.

Joel Montoya, who was nominated to the Air Force Academy last year, was offered a scholarship to New Mexico Military Institute's Service Academy Preparatory School. Montoya received his appointment to the Air Force Academy earlier this year.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Bailey E. Little has received appointments to both the United States Air Force Academy and the United States Military Academy. Ella C. Freimanis, whose appointment is still pending, will make a record five cadets appointed to service academies.

Additionally, Jaclin D. Sidden, former cadet commander of Spirit Squadron, will receive her commission as a second lieutenant in May, 2015, after completing four years of Air Force ROTC at the University of New Mexico. Cadet Captain Michael R. Eckert, another former cadet commander and a junior at UNM, is also enrolled in Air Force ROTC and will pin on his lieutenant's bars in May, 2016, making a grand total of seven cadets enrolled in officer training.

Squadron Commander Maj. Lloyd J. Voights, was extremely impressed with the number of officer trainees the squadron has produced. "This is awesome," he said. "This is a perfect example of what right looks like." 🇺🇸



Arizona Wing Members Participate in the Falcon Field Open House 2015

by Lt. Col. A. Peter Feltz, CAP, Arizona Wing

MESA, Ariz. – On Feb. 28, 2015, Arizona Wing's Falcon Field Composite Squadron 305 and the Arizona Wing Aerospace Education team participated in bringing the CAP story to the public.

Falcon Field in Mesa Arizona was originally established on September 1941 as a training airport for WWII aviators. Pilots from several countries received their training here. After the war, the city of Mesa eventually took it over as a general aviation airport in the heart of the Phoenix metropolitan area. It has two runways and pilot training fixed base operators (FBOs) so flight training still goes on.

The Arizona State Commemorative Air Force and Historical War Planes have their home base at this airport for Arizona.



Top: CAP cadets present the colors. (Photos: Lt. Col. A. Peter Feltz)

Above Right: The food booth.

Left: The CAP information and recruiting booth.

Bottom: The flight simulator was in use non-stop.

This is a big event combining air shows, a large classic car show; historical exhibits; model railroad exhibit and much more. The Civil Air Patrol Squadron had two locations: a recruiting booth and flight simulator in the War Birds hangar, and the main food court. With a very large crowd in attendance, CAP members served up a lot of food in a good variety.

The food court has developed into a major fund-raiser for the squadron. Almost enough to cover squadron expenses for the whole year. It took considerable effort to organize and run this venture, but the rewards were substantial, as the line of customers was long and continuous.

Two large railroad exhibits and the large classic car show were crowd pleasers. 🇺🇸





Top: A Cessna 182's cockpit instrument panel. (All photos: Capt. Erik Nystrom)

Texas Wing Cadets Get Orientation Flights at Sugar Land

by Capt. Karl Falken, CAP, Texas Wing

SUGAR LAND, Texas – On Jan. 24, 2015, eight Thunderbird Composite Squadron cadets got orientation flights at Anson Aviation, located at the Sugar Land Municipal Airport. The orientation flights are based on a curriculum designed to introduce youth to the operation of powered aircraft in a graduated way that helps them develop an interest in flight.

Each cadet is entitled to five powered flights at a front seat, covering the following skill areas: (1) Ground handling, preflight, take-off and landing; (2) Normal flight maneuvers; (3) Advanced flight maneuvers; (4) Use of instruments in flight, and (5) Weather.

The Civil Air Patrol planes are flown by highly-qualified CAP pilots who volunteer their time to gain proficiency and mentor the future mechanics, pilots and aerospace engineers who will keep America flying high.

CAP Capt. Kale LeBlanc – who got his start in flying with the O-Flight program – said, “I’m a pilot, and started flying very young with cadet O-flights in Louisiana. In Houston, we have a unique advantage with three available aircraft and two more nearby at the David Wayne Hooks airport. Group IV also has our choice of several senior pilots with excellent qualifications. We are funded by the taxpayers through the United States Air Force. So we need to use the opportunity and do so, typically with an O-Flight day each month. This compares with twice a year in other areas. At this level, it’s quite unusual to find all of this in one place.”

Capt. LeBlanc, who organized these O-Flights, is a transport mission pilot who holds a private pilot’s license and is working on his instrument rating. Currently, he is working towards becoming a mission pilot or orientation pilot.

Right: Cadet Airman Dwayne Dillon during his first O-Flight.

Below: Cadet Airman Dwayne Dillon and Capt. Erik Nystrom during take-off and landing lesson.



A newcomer to the program is Ashton Dillon, the father of Cadet Airmen Dwayne and Klein Dillon, who brought along their friend Cadet Airman Diego Rabion. Originally from India, the Dillon family is very glad to have opportunities here that don't even exist in their homeland.

"Awesome!" said Rabion when asked about his experience. "I like flying. I actually was allowed to handle the controls. They are quite sensitive. This has inspired me to think about getting my pilot's license next after I have a driver's license. I learned a lot about the controls and aircraft traffic patterns."

One of the pilots who flew the cadets is Capt. Erik Nystrom, a general aviation pilot with instrument and instructor ratings who also holds a commercial pilot's license. When not volunteering for CAP, he works as a strategic planner for Columbia Pipeline. A former Army captain, he served a tour of duty in Afghanistan as an Intelligence Officer with the 1st Infantry Division.

"I really like doing O-flights," he said. "I wish I could have done this growing up, but I didn't know about Civil Air Patrol then. This is a real pleasure for me, because I enjoy being around young people."

Essential support for programs such as this comes from businesses like Anson Aviation where the O-Flights were staged. Their facility also hosts the weekly meetings of the CAP Sugar Land Composite Squadron.

"Anson has been very supportive and gracious to us with the use of this space. In turn, we support their service projects such as the Angel Flight Fundraiser. It's a win-win situation. Several Anson Aviation employees are also CAP members," said 2nd Lt. Diane Kennedy, the Sugar Land Composite Squadron's deputy commander for cadets.

Anson Aviation's President Dana Atkinson lets CAP use office and meeting room space and park their aircraft at the school free of charge.

Jay Robinson, who works there, adds, "The Civil Air Patrol is a service for all who fly and a great organization for both youth and adults to get introduced to aviation. Not only as an

introduction, but they learn useful skills and develop character traits that apply not only to aviation but to life in general."

Today the effort comes full circle, with pilots like Capt. LeBlanc who benefited from O-Flights and Capt. Nystrom who wishes he had, both working together to bring the program to today's youth who could be tomorrow's pilots. 🇺🇸





Top: At the robotics seminar, Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford (standing, left) observes the progress of cadets' work in trying to carry out the assigned tasks. (Photo: 1st Lt. Joshua B. Bass, CAP)

Louisiana Squadron Wings Big at Annual Wing Conference

by 1st Lt. Joshua B. Bass, CAP, Louisiana Wing

PINEVILLE, La. – On March 7, 2015, Louisiana Wing held their annual Wing Conference and Awards Banquet at the Country Inn & Suites. The event was attended by Wing staff and squadrons from throughout the Wing. Southwest Region Commander Col. Frank A. Bueche was also in attendance. The guest speaker, retired Marine Corps Lt. Col. Arthur Arceneaux, told of his riveting experiences as a fighter pilot in the South Pacific during WWII. Barksdale Composite Squadron was represented by senior members and cadets.

After the opening morning General Assembly Session, Barksdale cadets took full advantage of the cadet seminars that the Wing Cadet Advisory Council offered. At the robotics seminar hosted by Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford, cadets were split into teams and used a robot to move forms into their proper slots. The three fastest cadets were awarded a special treat of astronaut ice cream. Wing Drug Demand Reduction Officer Capt. Paul J. Kohles hosted a DDR seminar where cadets had a chance to try and control a modified RC car while wearing modified eyeglasses that simulate an impaired state when trying to drive or operate equipment.

After lunch, Air Force Tactical Air Control Personnel (TACP) stationed at Fort Polk in Leesville, La., explained their duty roles and showed cadets their specialized equipment. These airmen

cross-train with all branches of the military to call in air strikes, artillery and naval fire when friendly forces are in close proximity to the enemy target. Barksdale Composite Squadron Leadership Officer Capt. Brian Nicholas was an Air Liaison Officer (ALO) for three years, helping direct TACPs from the air to maximize lethality and make the best decisions. He also assisted in the demonstrations, since he is still an active duty Air Force major.

First Lt. Michael Giroir supervised how experienced cadets instructed, and instructed himself, a Color Guard Seminar. Cadets in rotating groups were instructed on how to properly fold the Flag of the United States, how to properly adjust the colors after posting them and the ceremonial use of rifles as it applies to a Color Guard. All cadet seminars were well attended and very well received.

That evening, the Annual Awards Banquet was held. At the end of the banquet, Barksdale Composite Squadron walked away with a multitude of Wing awards, showing that the hard work of unit cadets and senior members had paid off. The squadron received the National Quality Cadet Unit Award for commendable cadet programs for the period Sept. 1, 2013 to Sept. 1, 2014, the Wing Col. Dion DeCamp Memorial Ground Team of the Year Award, the Wing 2014 Squadron of Merit Award, and the 2014 Wing Squadron of the Year Award.

In addition to the unit awards, several unit members were recognized for their individual efforts throughout the year. First Lt. Angelica Larson received the CAP Achievement Award for outstanding duty performance as Operation Officer at the 2014 Wing Summer Encampment. Cadet Maj. Matthew Pourteau received the CAP Achievement Award for his outstanding duty performance as Cadet Commander of his squadron during 2014. Cadet Col. Tanner Spearman was awarded a Wing Commander's Commendation for outstanding duty performance as Cadet Commander of the 2014 Summer Encampment. First Lt. Joshua Bass was presented a Wing Commander's Commendation Award for outstanding duty performance in five staff positions within the squadron during 2014. Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Jacob Bass was presented the Wing Cadet Ground Team Member of the Year Award. First Lt. Joshua Bass was presented the Wing Senior Ground Team Member of the Year Award.

Lastly, Lt. Col. Kathy Beauford – Wing External Aerospace Education Officer and 2014 Winner of CAP's National Maj. Gen. Jeanne Holm Aerospace Education Officer of the Year Award – established a scholarship for Louisiana Wing cadets. The Gertrude Beauford Memorial

Scholarship, which she personally funds, is open to cadets that have achieved the grade of Cadet Tech. Sgt., and is an all-expenses paid trip to the cadet's choice of Space Camp or Aviation Challenge, held at the Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala. For 2015, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Jacob Bass became the first winner. 🇺🇸



Left: At the presentation of the Wing 2014 Squadron of the Year Award, (L-R) Wing Commander Col. Thomas W. Barnard, Cadet Maj. Matthew Pourteau, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Jacob Bass, Cadet Maj. Andrew Koepnick, 1st Lt. Joshua Bass, and Capt. Brian Albarado.



Texas Wing Cadets Perform Flag Retirement Ceremony

by 1st Lt Wilmer Sosa, CAP, Texas Wing

HEMPSTEAD, Texas – On the evening of March 28, 2015, members of the Thunderbird Composite Squadron paused their Field Training Exercise (FTX) at the Liendo Plantation to perform an official "Retiring of the Colors" ceremony that follows a prescribed routine. It begins with a careful examination of the flag to determine its suitability for continued service or establishing that the flag needs to be retired from service.

"When a flag is worn beyond repair, it should be retired in a dignified manner. We will do so this evening," said Deputy Commander for Cadets 1st Lt .Salvatore LoDolce. "The flag, when no longer fit for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning (The United States Flag Code, Section 176)."

The outdoors ceremony was led by 1st Lt. LoDolce. The ceremony began with the cadets cutting the flag into sections, following U.S. Flag Code specifications, which state that "a flag ceases to be a flag when it is cut into pieces."

First Lt. LoDolce then read passages from the flag ceremony text: "'Old Glory' is my nickname; proudly I wave on high. Honor

me. Respect me. Defend me with your lives and fortunes. Never let my enemies tear me down from my lofty position lest I never return. Keep alight the fires of patriotism, strive earnestly for the spirit of democracy. Worship Eternal God and keep his commandments and I shall remain the bulwark of peace of freedom for all people."

"For I am your flag. My red stripes symbolize the blood spilled in defense of the glorious nation. My white stripes signify the burning tears shed by Americans who lost their sons. My blue field is indicative of God's heaven under which we fly. My stars, clustered together, unify 50 States as one for God and Country."

"Once the flag is cut in three pieces," LoDolce said, "it is no longer a flag of the United States and it can be burned without disgrace."

After cutting the flag, selected cadets placed their sections into the fire, while the remaining cadets looked on in solemn silence.

"It was very emotional," said Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Zachariah Lexa, who assisted in the cutting. "I wanted to cry." The members of the Thunderbird Composite Squadron showed the highest level of respect and dignity as they honored the flag.

"You feel privileged to be able to do this," said Cadet Chief Master Sgt. David Sabillon. "You do feel emotional. I was thinking 'wow' and about the people who gave their lives so that we could be safe."

The solemn ceremony helped participants better appreciate those who sacrificed their all for America's freedoms. The ceremony is designed to create a renewed sense of pride in the nation by reminding those present of America's history and heritage. 🇺🇸



Top & Right: Cadet Capt. Jacob Branum sections the flag, assisted by Cadet Chief Master Sgts. Zachariah Lexa and Hunter Wright. (Photos: 1st Lt. Wilmer Sosa, CAP)

How the Southwest Region Public Affairs Awards Program Works

Starting with the Jan., 2013 issue of The Fly-By, by directive of Southwest Region Commander Col. Frank A. Buethe, the region will recognize contributions to The Fly-By as follows:

1. A SWR **CAP Achievement Award** for article publication on three different issues of The Fly-By. Multiple articles in the same issue will count as one.
2. A SWR **Commander's Commendation Award** for article publication on an additional six different issues. Multiple articles in the same issue will count as one.

Region will issue the certificate and send it to the winner's unit at the first available opportunity. The award certificate will be presented at the first available opportunity.

How to Make Submissions Suitable for Publication

Since The Fly-By is posted on the SWR website, it is an external communication. Therefore, as required by CAPR 190-1, Sec. 7.b.(7), articles must be written in Associated Press Style. If a submission that is not in AP Style is selected for publication, it will be edited to this standard. (NHQ/PA has been using AP Style for all external communications since 2005.)

AP Style is defined in the Associated Press Stylebook (available at www.ap.org). For a brief summary, please see "Associated Press Style in a Nutshell," overleaf.

"Article" is defined as a narrative that:

- Is written in AP Style;
- Answers the questions Who, What, When, Where, and Why, and preferably also How;
- Has one or more quotes from participants, with attribution;
- Has two or more digital photos attached (not embedded in the text), with appropriate cutlines (photo captions). An article submitted without digital photos that is selected for publication will count as a half-credit. For full credit, it must have accompanying photos.

General advice on writing a good article

- Get all the facts right, stick to the facts, and do not use hearsay or express opinion.
- Take good digital photos.
 - Do not use digital zoom, or else your photos will lack good focus and definition;
 - Take "action shots" of people doing something interesting that is material to the article;
 - Make sure everyone is in the correct uniform and you identify all.
 - **Note:** Good photos are essential to add immediacy and flavor to the story.
- Get good quotes.
 - Ask participants for their opinion;
 - Get full grade, name, position title and unit of assignment for each quote.
 - Get the individual's consent to publish the quote as recorded (read it back).
 - **Note:** Getting quotes is how you get to express opinion, and get your readers to share the experience that you are writing about.
- Write in good, idiomatic, unadorned English.
 - Do not "pad" your sentences, such as saying "due to the fact that" when "because" will do;
 - Avoid trite expressions, such as "it goes without saying" – if it does, don't say it;
 - Avoid colloquial expressions;
 - Do not write in acronyms – always define the first instance, such as "Federal Aviation Administration" before you use FAA;
 - No nicknames – unless famous, such as "Ike" for Pres. Dwight E. Eisenhower. 

Associated Press Style in a Nutshell

Below are the most important rules to keep in mind when writing in AP Style

- Write the title in normal English-language capitalization. Never all in caps.
- Add your byline below the article title
- Do not format the text in the article (only exceptions are: bullet comments and numbered paragraphs in a section that details a process or sequence).
- Do not indent the first line of a paragraph.
- Use AP Style rules for punctuation.
- Single space the article. At the end of each paragraph, execute two end-of lines (Enter key).
- Do not introduce artificial paragraphing by hitting the Enter key at the end of each line in your article. Instead, let the text wrap naturally and tap two Enter keys at the end of the paragraph.
- Use only a single space after a period.
- Insert a dateline at the beginning of the article, following AP Style rules.
- Answer the 5Ws: Who, What, Where, When, Why + the honorary W: How. In writing a CAP article, you will always know the 5Ws.
- Write all dates in AP style.
- Do not use postal codes instead of state abbreviations (not OK but Okla., not NM but N.M.) but some states have no abbreviation, such as Texas.
- Write all military grades in AP Style.
- Write the article in the third person singular.
- Express no opinion.
- To express opinion, use one or more quotes of qualified sources – always get the quoted person’s permission to include the quote, unless it is a matter of record (printed article or recorded audio-visual). Get the quoted person’s grade, name, job title and organization.
- Never self-quote.
- Identify all persons by grade or title, name, job title if material, and organization.
- Never refer to a young person as “kid.”
- When a young person is a CAP cadet, never use “boy,” “girl” or “child” but identify each one by grade, full name (or last name only – never first name only), and unit of assignment.
- Never use “their” for the possessive of a singular subject, such as, “the cadet took their meal.”
- Avoid the abbreviations i.e. and e.g. You may know what each one means, and the Latin words they represent, but most people confuse the two. Be clear. Write in English and leave Latin and non-English to scholars.
- Refer to CAP members by grade, name, duty position and unit of assignment. Never by first name.
- On second or subsequent references, use only the last name, except when there are two persons with the same last name, in which case the use of both first and last name is preferred (never just the first names).
- In the case of CAP or military commanders or higher ranking senior members, on second reference use the grade and last name.
- Do not use Lt. as a grade. Lt. is a mode of address. The correct grade may be 2nd Lt. or 1st Lt., but never Lt. The Navy is the only service that has the grade of Lt.
- Do not use exclamation marks, as doing so expresses opinion.
- Use simple declarative sentences.
- Avoid the passive voice.
- Remember the good rules of English grammar and syntax, and follow them.
- **For best results**, buy the latest copy of the Associated Press Stylebook, available at a modest cost at www.ap.org – read it, study it, know it, and use it. 📖